

**Statement of U.S. Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL-13<sup>th</sup>)  
In Support of H.J.Res. 61  
Wednesday, September 12, 2001**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J.Res. 61.

Like most Americans, the very first thing I did as the tragedy of yesterday unfolded was to call my family to ensure that everyone was safe and to assure them that I was safe.

My heart and my prayers go out to all of those families who did not get the reassuring phone call they hoped for. Today will be the hardest day for them, as shock melts to grief, and grief makes way for the anger that is sure to come.

Today is the hardest day for us as a nation. As we state in this resolution, this day stands as a national day of unity and mourning. It is not a day for anger. It is a day for resolve – cold, calculated, patient, unemotional and universal resolve.

In passing this resolution today, what we as a body say to Americans, to the world community, and to those who perpetrated or aided these crimes is simple: never forget and never again.

Never will we forget the terror and tragedy of these days. Just as our children and grandchildren ask, "Where were you when Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japan or when President Kennedy was shot by Oswald," so, too, will they one day ask where we were when America was attacked by the stealth enemy of cowardice and terror, now vanquished.

Never again will Americans face the horror and loss that we feel today. Never will we be lulled into a false sense of complacency that the world is safe or that national security can ever take a back seat to other, more popular priorities.

Cynics may say that this is a resolution that is non-binding, that it holds not the weight of law nor the power of resources. Cynics are wrong.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more important statement this body has made or will make that holds the strength and meaning of our vote today. This measure is more than an expression of support for our people, our values, our President. This measure codifies our commitment and unites us in our pledge: never forget; never again.